



PATENT APPLICATION
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 20474.CIP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARKS OFFICE

ART UNIT: 3763

EXAMINER:

APPLICANT: Jung-nam Im, et al

SERIAL NO.: 10/675,354

FILED: 9/29/2003

CONFIRM. NO.: 5792

FOR: MONOFILAMENT SUTURE AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: *Febr 12, 2004*

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper or fee referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Lucy Leek
Lucy Leek, Secretary

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir/Madam:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Forms, PTO-1449, which contain lists of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). Applicant respectfully submits that this Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to:

- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(1) or (3), within three months of the filing date of the application, or before a first office action on the merits, whichever occurs last;
- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c), after a first office action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p); or
- 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (d), after a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by both 1) a statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and 2) the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

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Page 2

While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the references listed, together with any other references which may have been previously submitted or listed, are the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each listed reference (or relevant portion thereof) which was not previously submitted to, or cited by, the Patent Office is also enclosed.

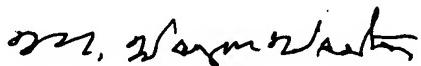
Certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application no. 10,218,336, filed on 08/13/2002, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120 (copies will be provided upon the Examiner's request).

For all listed references that are not either in the English language, or accompanied by a translation into English, a concise explanation of relevance as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) is enclosed attached to each.

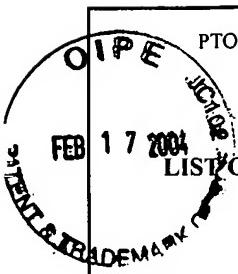
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Wayne Western
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 22,788



PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
20474.CIPSERIAL NO.
10/675,354FEB 17 2004
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT Jung-nam Im et al

FILING DATE
09/29/2003GROUP
3763

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	4,470,941	09-11-1984	KURTZ, Leonard D.			
	AB	4,620,542	11-4-1986	MENEZES, Edgar et al			
	AC	5,451,461	09-19-1995	BROYER, Ephraim			
	AD	5,456,696	10-10-1995	LIU, Cheng-Kung			
	AE	5,578,046	11-26-1996	LIU, Cheng-Kung et al			
	AF	5,626,611	05-06-1997	LIU, Cheng-Kung et al			
	AG	5,641,501	06-24-1997	COOPER, Kevin et al			
	AH	5,997,568	12-07-1999	LIU, Cheng-Kung			
	AI	6,090,910	07-18-2000	SHINODA, Hosei et al			
	AJ	6,093,200	07-25-2000	LIU, Cheng-Kung et al			
	AK	6,162,537	12-19-2000	MARTIN, Donald H. et al			
	AL	6,183,499	02-06-2001	FISCHER, Jerome A. et al			
	AM	6,191,236	02-20-2001	ROBY, Mark S. et al			
	AN	6,197,043	03-06-2001	DAVIDSON, James A.			
	AO	6,235,869	05-22-2001	ROBY, Mark S. et al			
	AP	6,315,788	11-13-2001	ROBY, Mark S.			
	AQ	6,342,065	01-29-2002	SHALABY, W.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AR	99010319	1999	KOREA			Yes (Abstract)

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AS	Rao S.Bezwada et al; Monocryl® Suture, A New Ultra-Plexible Absorbable Monofilament Suture, <i>Biomaterials</i> 1995, 16:1141-1148
AT	E.J.C. Van Rijssel et al; Tissue Reaction and Surgical Knots: The Effect of Suture Size, Knot Configuration, and Knot Volume, <i>Obstet Gynecol</i> 1989; 74:64-8;
AU	J. B. Trimbos; Security of Various Knots Commonly Used in Surgical Practice, <i>Obstet Gynecol</i> 1984, 64:274-80
AV	E.J.C. Van Rijssel et al; Mechanical Performance of Square Knots and Sliding Knots in Surgery: A Comparative Study, <i>Am J Obstet Gynecol</i> 1990; 162:93-7

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



 PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 20474.CIP	SERIAL NO. 10/675,354
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT JUNG-NAM IM, et al	
FILING DATE 09/29/2003		GROUP 3763	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	A1	PCT/GB99/02154 WO 00/01426	13 Jan 2000	GB				
	A2	PCT/US97/20177 WO 98/20190	14 May 1998	US				
	A3	EP 0 786 259 A2	30 July 1997	EP				
	A4	0 668 083 A1	23 Aug 1995	EP				
	A5	PCT/US99/24404 WO 00/22991	27 April 2000	US				
	A6	0 499 204 A1	19 Aug 1992	EP				
	A7	PCT/US99/00252 WO 99/34750	15 July 1999	US				
	A8	EP 1 216 718 A1	26 June 2002	EP				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

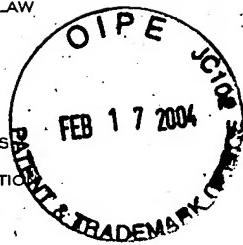
***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication with applicant.



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AND RELATED MATTERS



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February 10, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/675,354 filed 09/29/2003
Applicant: Jung-nam Im et al
Title: **MONOFILAMENT SUTURE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF**
Group Art Unit: 3763
Attorney Docket No. 20474.CIP

Sir/Madam:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- Two PTO-1449 Forms listing 30 references submitted for consideration.
- Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application no. 10,218,336, filed on 08/13/2002, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2).
- Check No. ____ in the amount of \$0.00 (amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Statement meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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